United Nations S/PV.6358

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6358th meeting

Tuesday, 13 July 2010, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Austria	Ms. Kyrle
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	France	Mr. Arnaud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Söylemez
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2010/324)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-44726 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2010/324)

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Djinnit to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2010/324, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Said Djinnit, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Djinnit: It is a distinct honour and privilege to introduce to the Security Council the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/324) on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), and to brief the Council on the overall peace and stability situation in the subregion during the past six months. I am particularly pleased that this meeting is being held under the auspices of Nigeria, the country currently assuming the chairmanship of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

When I briefed the Council six months ago (see S/PV.6256), West Africa presented a mixed picture of positive developments and less encouraging trends, thus raising legitimate concern about the prospects for consolidating peace and stability in the region. Indeed, a presidential election was pending in Togo in an atmosphere of deep anxiety and widespread tensi constitutional crisis was evolving in Niger with prospect for a consensual solution. The situatio Guinea was deteriorating, while existing and eme challenges such as food insecurity, drug trafficking criminal activities, including terrorist acts, affecting the lives of large segments of the popul in the subregion.

Since then, West Africa has made signif progress in crisis prevention and peacebuilding a daunting difficulties and persistent challenges. the past six months, the global economic recovery supported economic growth in West Africa. How this growth has yet to be translated into effective sustainable poverty reduction programmes, prospects for achieving the Millennium Develop Goals remain weak. In addition, the ongoing crisis is affecting millions of people in the S particularly in Niger, where over 7 million peopl an estimated 60 per cent of the country's populatio face the threat of famine and are in the midst serious food, nutrition and pastoral crisis.

On the political front, the holding of peac elections in Togo and the subsequent formation new Government with the participation of part o opposition, as well as the continued commitment o authorities of Niger to the transition progra scheduled to end in March 2011, are encouraging s of progress.

During the reporting period, great emphasis also placed on addressing the crisis in Guinea, w the process towards constitutional order has moving forward. Despite the numerous hur encountered, the first round of presidential elect was organized peacefully on 27 June. I am proud o collaborative efforts by different United Nat entities in supporting the Guinean transition proc including through the financial support of Peacebuilding Support Office and by initiating secu sector reform (SSR). Now that the country is prepa for the second round of the presidential election, United Nations should continue to provide the mu needed support for completing the electoral proces a smooth and peaceful manner, and more importan develop a framework for sustaining democr governance and promoting development bey elections.

Needless to say, stable and peaceful democratic governance in Guinea will have far-reaching implications for regional stability, especially in consolidating hard-won peace in Sierra Leone and Liberia and in enhancing efforts to address the ongoing crisis in Guinea-Bissau. I wish to seize this opportunity to commend the International Contact Group on Guinea for its valuable contribution to the transition process, particularly the critical role played within that Group by members of the Council.

The Office has also focused on key cross-cutting and cross-border issues that are affecting peace and stability in the subregion. In this regard, UNOWA established a regional network of practitioners to assist West African countries in the area of security sector reform. This network has so far made a contribution to the development by ECOWAS of its regional SSR framework and to the preparation of the SSR assessment process in Guinea. These are only initial steps which need to be reinforced in order to respond to the growing needs of the subregion in this field. That is all the more important in view of the linkages among SSR, democratic governance and the fight against drug trafficking, another priority area in which the Office has been working closely with ECOWAS and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The recent seizure of two tons of cocaine in the Gambia, with the assistance of the United Kingdom, and the arrest of suspects in the United States who were planning to smuggle four tons of cocaine to Europe and North America through Liberia are evidence of the increasing commitment of the West African States to fighting the scourge of drug trafficking and of the vital importance of international cooperation. These developments are indeed very encouraging, bearing in mind the continuing evolution of drug trafficking methods and the possible connections with other organized criminal activities, including acts of terrorism, especially in the Sahel band and beyond.

The Office pursued its efforts to promote the role of women in consolidating peace and stability in the subregion, in line with resolution 1325 (2000) and all subsequent resolutions. In particular, UNOWA engaged women's associations and leaders in Guinea in support of the transition process, including the conduct of peaceful elections.

Allow me to conclude by making four observations. First, the recent progress made in consolidating peace and stability in West Africa highlights the role that UNOWA plays as an effective regional tool of the United Nations for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Secondly, this progress has been achieved, first and foremost, thanks to the commitment and sacrifice of the people of the region and its leaders. It has also been effectively supported through the excellent collaboration that UNOWA has forged with ECOWAS, as the leading regional institution, and the African Union, which in the case of Guinea has contributed to galvanizing the international community into concerted action to help move the transition process forward.

Thirdly, recent experience in the subregion has shown that opportunities for crisis prevention and sustainable peace are available now more than ever before. Indeed, international assistance and capacity-building programmes, such as support to SSR, electoral assistance, the promotion of human rights and cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime could provide, in my view, useful entry points for conflict prevention.

Fourthly, despite significant progress in peace consolidation, West Africa remains at a crossroads, owing to the persistence of the root causes of conflicts in the region, such as social disparities, ethnic tensions and governance challenges, which risk undermining the progress achieved. This requires the continued support of the international community, including the United Nations, to maintain the momentum for peace and stability in the subregion.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their continued commitment to peace and security in West Africa and their tireless efforts towards addressing the challenges the subregion faces.

The President: I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.